

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 16929 190428Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/062 W

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R 181400Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 6341

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: SANJAY GANDHI: HIS ACTIVITIES WIDEN

REF: NEW DELHI 16488

1. OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS SANJAY GANDHI HAS STRENGTHENED HIS HOLD OVER THE YOUTH CONGRESS THROUGH MORE PERSONNEL CHANGES THAT REFLECT HIS ANTI-CPI ORIENTATION. UNDER HIS AEGIS, THE YOUTH CONGRESS IS ORGANIZING ITSELF FOR A MORE ACTIVIST ROLE AS THE CONGRESS' CADRE ARM. SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH HIS YOUTH CONGRESS ENDEAVORS, SANJAY CONTINUES TO BUILD A POLITICAL BASE IN NEW DELHI WHICH HE MAY EVENTUALLY EXPLOIT FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE. HIS INFLUENCE IS WIDENING IN OTHER AREAS. HE IS CREDITED WITH DEFLECTING HIGH-LEVEL CONGRESS PARTY ATTENDANCE AT THE PATNA INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE. HE HAS PLACED HIS DESIGNEES IN SOME KEY INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND IN SEVERAL TRADE UNION EXECUTIVES. HE CONTINUES TO EXERT HIS INFLUENCE AGAINST CPI INTERESTS AND WE HAVE HEARD FROM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA THAT A TOP CPI LEADER RECENTLY BITTERLY COMPLAINED TO HIM ABOUT "THE SON'S" ACTIVITY IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION. CPI AND OTHER LEFTIST
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GROUPS IN BIHAR AND CALCUTTA APPEAR TO BE SPEAKING OUT MORE

OPENLY AGAINST SANJAY. A CALCUTTA PRESIDENCY COLLEGE PAMPHLET
CRITICIZED HIM AS AN ALLY OF THE CAPITALISTS AND ASSERTS
THAT HIS "INTERESTS IN POLITICS" DOES NOT MEAN "HE WOULD FIT IN
THE ROLE OF A LEADER OR THAT WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT HIS ORDERS."
DESPITE HIS PRESENT MEASURABLE INFLUENCE, AND ALMOST OPEN-
ENDED POTENTIAL, SANJAY'S DIRECT EXERCISE OF INFLUENCE IS
STILL FELT MORE IN PERSONAL AREAS, CHIEFLY ON AD HOC POLITICAL
AND PERSONNEL DECISIONS, THAN ON MAJOR POLICY MATTERS. IN THE
LATTER AREAS, HIS INFLUENCE IN THE AIN IS EXERCIZED THROUGH
HIS MOTHER, ALTHOUGH HE HAS A SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING NUMBER
OF "ALLIES" WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE TOP LEVELS
OF THE BUREAUCRACY WHO ALSO EXERT INFLUENCE ON MAJOR POLICY
DECISIONS. SANJAY HAS SO FAR PREOCEEDED SLOWLY, METHODICALLY
AND SUCCESSFULLY. BUT THE CHANCES FOR HIM TO MAKE MISTAKES
OR TO BUILD UP AN ANTI-SANJAY - AND INDIRECTLY AN
ANTI-MRS. GANDHI - LOBBY MAY INCREASE AS HE ATTEMPTS TO WIDEN
HIS PERSONAL INFLUENCE AND ACTIVITIES AND OPERATES MORE
PUBLICLY.

2. ABOVE IS SUMMARY OF AIRGRAM BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
SAXBE

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